My dear Lord

I should not have defer'd so long the obeying of your Lordship's command, in sending you the sketch of a case for the opinion of the King's Advocate &c., but that I wanted a copy of the order in Council enclosed herewith, & likewise an answer from the Solicitor of the Customs, to a question I sent to him respecting the lading of Provisions on board neutral Ships, which might have enabled me to have put the 2. question

with more precision. But not knowing when I may get it, I have formed a question w.ch I believe will fully answer our purpose.

I should have little doubt but that Government might legally stop Provisions loading for the Enemy, if there were sufficient proof of the Intention, & might severely punish, as for a Misdemeanour, the Persons concerned in knowingly shipping such Provisions: but there is not ~~power~~ authority, at present sufficient for that purpose in Ireland. For God's sake my Lord endeavour to restore that authority to Government in England, or every thing must run to Anarchy, & Confusion. I shall be happy if I can in

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the least degree, assist your Lordship in so necessary an undertaking, being with the sincerest regard

My Lord

Your Lordship's

Most Faithfull

& Obedient Servant

Bathurst

Jan.y 9th the 10th 1780

Apsley-House

2d Earl

Lord President

10 Jan, 1780

Ms. Ch. G. 5.56

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